

**Amendment to the Specification:**

**Replace Paragraph [00042] with the following Amended Paragraph:**

[00042] Figure 11 shows another exemplary embodiment, in which the inclined stopping face 36 is embodied as a cone 90. The shaft 18 features a collar 23, which is adjacent to an annular stopping plate 34. In this case, the inclined stopping face 36 is not embodied as a flat plane, but radially symmetrical as a truncated cone surface area 90, which forms the angle of inclination 40 with the plane 42. The shaft 18 penetrates the stopping face 36 in the center of this cone 90 so that this exemplary embodiment is also suitable for a plunging-through spindle 16. The cone-shaped stopping face 36 features a stair-step-like profile 91 in this case so that the individual ring surfaces 92 run approximately parallel to the plane 42. An elastic ring element 94, via which the shaft 18 is supported on the housing 15, is arranged as a component 44 between the stopping face 35 of the stopping plate 34 and the conical stopping face 36. The elastic ring element 94 is comprised, e.g., of a put-together spiral spring 96, which is mounted under pre-stress in a resting position 98 in the gear housing 15. The annular spring 96 tensions as soon as it is shifted out of its resting position 98 into the gap 64 between the two stopping faces 36 and 35 and contracts so much until the axial play is equalized. If the axial play increases, e.g., due to wear, the spiral spring 96 can contract further radially in the gap 64. When the shaft 18 exerts an axial force 50 on the component 44, the formed-on, annular steps 92 prevent the component from being forced back out of the gap 64 radially away from the longitudinal axis 30 since no downhill slope force 54 results because of the parallel alignment of the ring surfaces 92 to the stopping plate 34. In this connection, the frictional condition that the coefficient of friction is supposed to be greater than the tangent of the angle of inclination 40 of the conical surface 36 is guaranteed by the step-shaped profile. In an alternative embodiment, the stopping face 36 that is embodied as a cone 90 features a smooth surface 63, and the component 44 is manufactured at least on its surface of a material that yields a high coefficient of friction in connection the surface of the cone 90. In the case of the embodiment according to Figure 11, no separate elastic element 48, which is supported on a housing part 46, is required either, but because of the elastic design of the component 44 as an annular spring [[94]] 96, the displacement force 58 is applied via the radial pre-stress of the elastic ring element 94.